

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) over Yano et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6,077,986 in view of Nakagawa et al. published U.S. Application No. 2002/01378441. Claim 1 has now been amended to limit compound (II) to a glycerol monocarboxylic acid ester. As the Examiner indicates in the aforementioned Office Action, a glycerol monocarboxylic acid ester has an unexpected influence on the magnitude of skinning time delay. As such, the use of this specific ester is a critical limitation in Claim 1. Since the examples 1-6 clearly show such influence of a glycerol monocarboxylic acid ester, e.g., monoglyceride oleate, monoglyceride stearate, and monoglyceride acetate (Table 5), the amended claim is commensurate with the full scope of the claim, and would not have been obvious in view of Yano et al. or Nakagawa et al.

As for the additional prior art referred to as a result of the survey by the Examiner, the amended claims are novel and unobvious over the prior art references WO 00/14127, WO 00/20498, and WO 01/55259. None of these references disclose, teach, or suggest the use of a glycerol monocarboxylic acid ester in the curable composition claimed.

Claim 1 is the only claim in independent form. Claims 3-14 and 16 each depend directly or indirectly on Claim 1. Accordingly, each of Claims 1, 3-14 and 16 should be in allowable form.

Respectfully submitted,

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